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PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

The Cockade City



Of The Union

Declared by President Madison in bidding farewell and God-speed
to the company of Petersburgers known as "Canada Volunteers,"
on their return home after giving valiant service in the war of 1812



PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, is at the head of tidewater on the Appomattox River. From this city railroads radiate in all directions. Three of these are great trunk lines which here have a common point of intersection. Its harbor can be entered by coast steamers.

As a field for military maneuvers and army exercises, the country adjacent is unsurpassed. There are open fields and wooded land; level ground, abrupt hills and deep ravines. Good running water is in abundant supply everywhere. Vegetables and farm products can here be obtained fresh and at low prices. As to the healthfulness of the location, no army was ever as free from disease as the two that faced each other here in 1864-'5. It is a splendid place for mobilizing troops and for storing munitions and supplies, as from this point they can be rapidly distributed by land and water in any direction at all seasons of the year.

In the war of 1812, a company from Petersburg, known as the "Canada Volunteers," whose complete roster we can show you, so acquitted themselves that they were publicly thanked by President Madison in an address in which he dubbed this city "the Cockade City of the Union," a title ever since held in high esteem.

To the Mexican War Petersburg sent two companies of volunteers to serve under General Winfield Scott, himself a native of this county and resident of this city; and veterans of this war are still engaged in business here.

In 1642 an Act of Assembly established Bristol Parish, embracing the territory on both sides of the "pleasant river Appamattuck" up to the falls, and in 1645 the assembly ordered that Fort Henry be built at the Falls, as a protection against the Indians. This is the first mention of fortifications at Petersburg, a feature for which the place was destined to have a world-wide reputation.

The ruins of the Brick Church, built and used by Bristol Parish, are still standing in Blandford Cemetery, owned by the City of Petersburg, and they and their beautiful surroundings never fail to stir the enthusiasm of the antiquary and to awaken to sweetest song the genius of the poet.

The following lines from an unknown pen, were found one day written
on the walls in a neat and scholarly hand

Thou art crumbling to the dust, old pile,
Thou art hastening to thy fall,
And around thee in thy loneliness
Clings the ivy to thy wall.
The worshippers are scattered now
Who knelt before thy shrine,
And silence reigns where anthems rose,
In days of "Auld Lang Syne."

And sadly sighs the wandering wind
Where oft in years gone by,
Prayers rose from many hearts to Him,
The Highest of the High;
The tramp of many a busy foot
That sought thy aisles is o'er,
And many a weary heart around
Is still forever more.

How doth ambition's hope take wing,
How droops the spirit now;
We hear the distant city's din,
The dead are mute below.
The sun that shone upon their paths
Now gilds their lonely graves;
The zephyrs which once fanned their brows
The grass above them waves.

Oh! could we call the many back
Who've gathered here in vain—
Who've careless roved where we do now,
Who'll never meet again,
How would our very souls be stirred,
To meet the earnest gaze
Of the lovely and the beautiful,
The lights of other days.



OLD BLANDFORD CHURCH

It was erected in 1735 and was the principal church of Bristol Parish, which was established in 1642 by an act of the House of Burgesses.
It belongs to the City of Petersburg and is now used as a Confederate Memorial Chapel

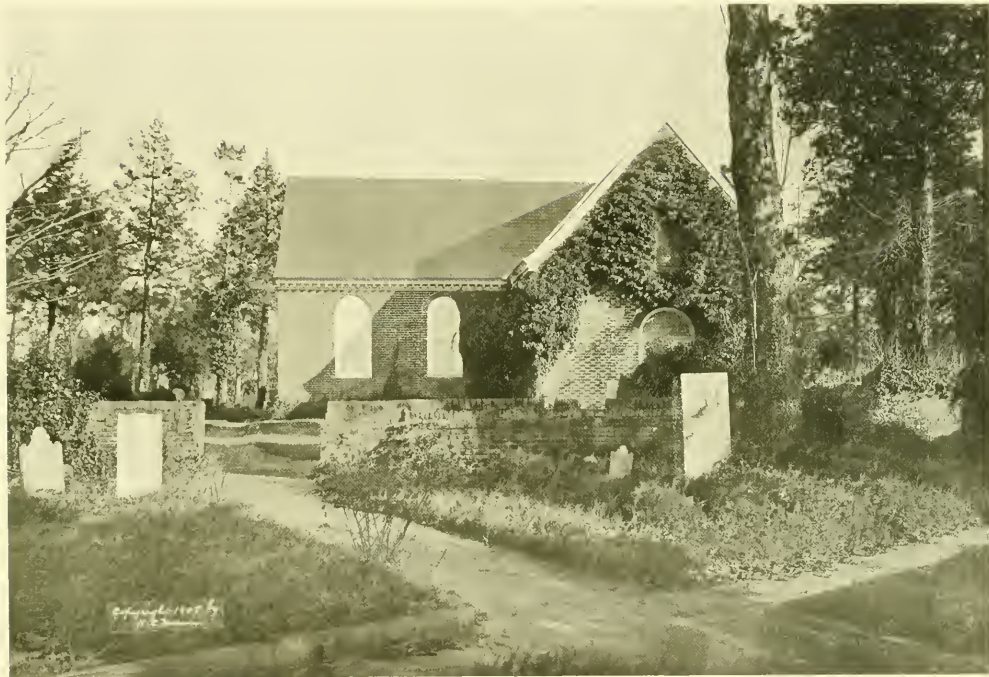
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Interior of Blandford Church showing Confederate Memorial Tablet and Memorial Windows of Missouri, Virginia and the Washington Artillery of New Orleans. Other Southern States expect to place windows of like designs

PETERSBURG is the only city in this country that was besieged for nearly ten months, during which time the lines of circumvallation were drawn tighter and tighter, until only a single narrow bridge was left over which Lee withdrew his decimated band of veterans under cover of night, April, 1865. It is the only city in this country where a portion of the 60 miles of entrenchments that girt it with a triple line are still to be seen, marking the spot where heroism was the ordinary duty of every day. Here the Federal army, recognizing that their process of attrition would be a matter of months, pitched their camps, extended their lines as fortune favored them, and built and equipped a railroad of twelve or fifteen miles to facilitate communication along their widely deployed front. Here *thirteen* pitched battles were fought outside the breastworks, and almost daily there were sharp engagements, which would have been accounted memorable battles had not the attention been absorbed by and the mind attuned to greater things. Here 150 old men and school boys held at bay a division of cavalry till, surrounded, the last of them were shot in the back while they continued to repel the repeated charges made on their front. Here 250 men having been told that it was necessary to hold an open earthwork of heavy profile, repulsed the three assaults made on it by fully 5,000 men, and held the assailants back for hours; when a fourth assault having been made from all sides, the work was entered from the rear, and the captors found only 26 men left standing, firing the guns loaded and passed up to them by their wounded comrades lying on the ground. Here 800 men, mostly Petersburgers, finding that they alone stood between their daughters and an eager enemy of 10,000, embracing many negroes, elated with partial victory, charged and drove them from the works by the very impetuosity of their attack.

During the continuous battle that raged around Petersburg for more than nine months, the shifting of brigades, divisions and army corps, common in military usage caused this front to become familiar ground to more individual Federal soldiers than any other battle field in the country; and the fact that final victory here crowned their arms excites in them the laudable wish that the scene of their service be preserved as they saw it; while nearly every soldier of the Army of Northern Virginia could take you to the spot where he stood and saw deeds of valor that equal any on the brightest pages of history.

If the military students of Europe think it worth while to come here to collect material for their text-books, is it not true wisdom on the part of this country to hand down intact to her soldiers of the future this most impressive volume on the Art of War?

Here, on the rampart of the very forts that once flamed with destruction, the very fields that were once swept as with a leaden cyclone, the very trenches that ran red with blood, they will not only learn the most lasting lessons of military strategy, but drink in deepest inspirations of patriotism. We can all be proud of what was done by either army, because it magnifies the force necessary to overcome, on the one part, and the devotion necessary to endure, on the other.

Here Lieutenant Jacob Douty and Sergeant Henry Rees of the 48th Pennsylvania, names not mentioned in history, performed a service that entitles them to be known wherever courage is not held in contempt. The mine did not explode at the time set, though the fuse had been lighted promptly. Minutes of anxious suspense drew out their ever increasing length till the tension became unbearable, when these two brave men volunteered to enter the tunnel leading to the mine and find the cause of failure. In the face of almost certain death, without the stimulus of surrounding combat, they performed this daring deed, found and relighted the extinguished fuse and groping their way back to the mouth of the tunnel reported that the explosion would take place in eleven minutes.

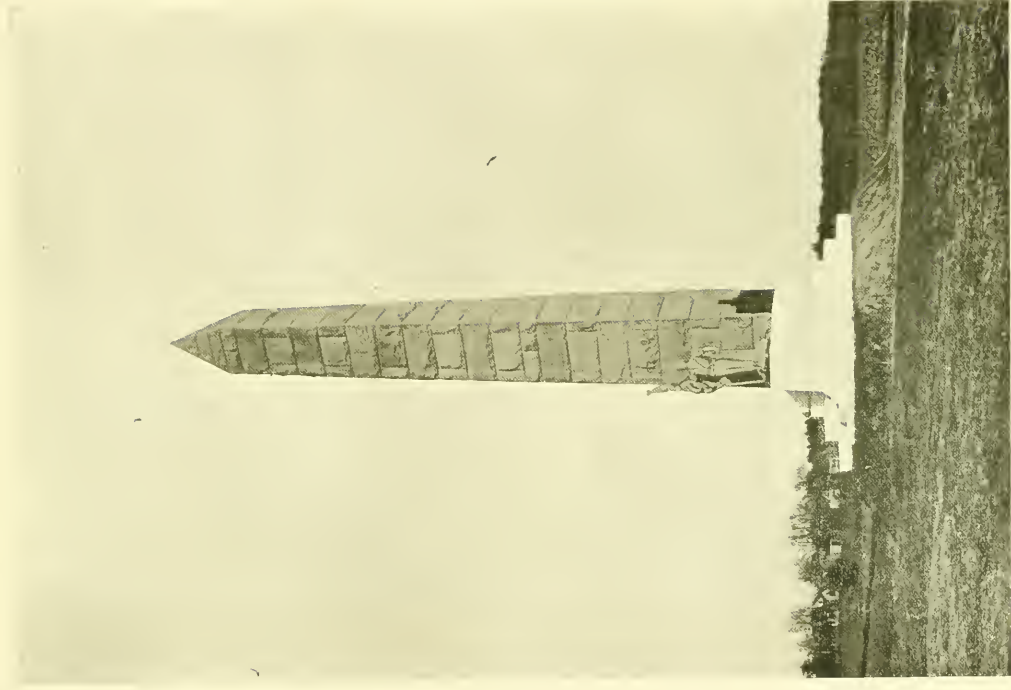
Here Lt. Col. Bross of the 29th U. S. so distinguished himself by personal bravery, waving his regimental colors and calling on his men to rally around him under a withering fire, that his name was given a formidable fort that stands to-day almost as well preserved as it was when evacuated forty years ago.

Here Captain Broadbent of New Jersey fell pierced with eleven bayonet wounds, of whom it may be said, quoting Froissart, that no man died that day with more glory, though many died and there was much glory.

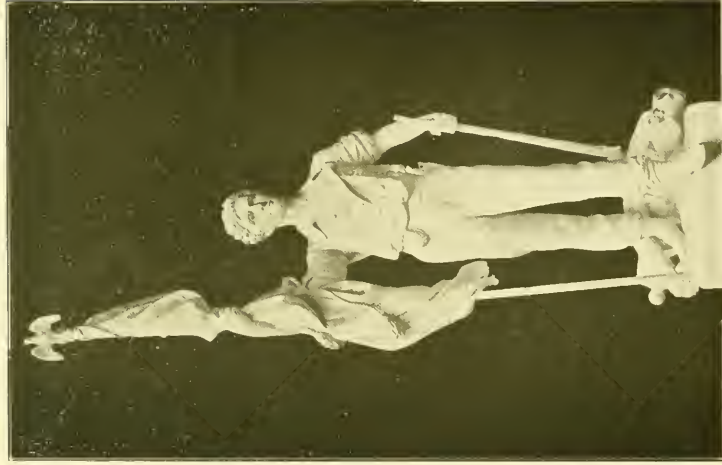
It is estimated that nearly half a million of individual Federal soldiers, including the armies of Butler, Sheridan, Sherman and Grant, were at different times in and around Petersburg, and the train loads of survivors and their friends that come here now to visit the scenes of their conflict and to get, if they can, permission to erect memorials to their commands and fallen comrades, show how proud they are of what they have accomplished.

Yes, give me the land that hath legions and lays
That tell of the conflict of long vanished days.
Yes, give me the land with a grave in each spot
And names in the graves that shall not be forgot
Yes, give me the land of the wreck and the tomb,
There's glory in graves, there's grandeur in gloom.

For out of the gloom future brightness is born,
As after the night looms the sunrise of morn.
For the graves of the brave with the grass overgrown,
Are ever the foot-stool of Liberty's throne,
And each single wreck in the war path of might
Has become now a rock in the Temple of Right.



This monument is erected by the State of Pennsylvania, on the site of Fort Mahone near Petersburg, Va. in honor of the gallant soldiers of the 3rd Division 9th Corps, Army of the Potomac, in the closing and trying events of the Civil War, 1861-1865. Unveiled May 19, 1909



Color Bearer on Monument of 3rd Division Pennsylvania Soldiers,
3rd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, Unveiled May 19, 1909,
Fort Mahone, near Petersburg, Va. This statue represents
a Color Bearer after having triumphantly planted his
colors and proclaiming victory



THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER—July 30, 1864

Painted by Elder for General William Mahone, who commanded the Confederate troops that made the famous charge in the crater fight. It is now owned by the Westmoreland Club of Richmond, Va. It has been said that around Petersburg during the war "more men were killed than the British have lost in the last one hundred years, including the wars with Napoleon."



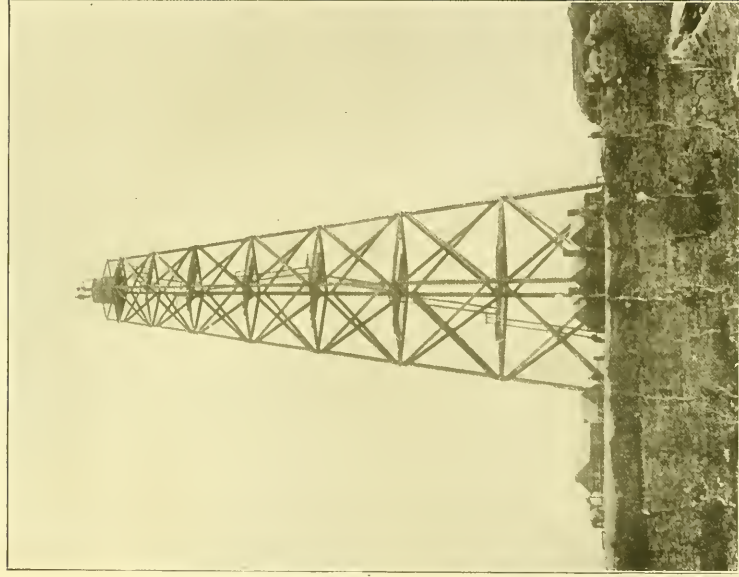
LEE'S HEADQUARTERS

Here General Lee was quartered during the Siege of Petersburg, until the extension of the lines to the right made the Turnbull place on Cox Road more convenient to his army.



GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS

In this house, Lincoln held his last interview with General Grant on April 3rd, 1865. It is now the residence of Mr. Simon Seward



GRANT'S SIGNAL TOWER

This tower is 150 feet high, on Peeble's farm, south-west from Petersburg, built by two companies of the 50th New York Engineers, under the direction of Capt. Chas. L. Davis, Signal Corps U. S. Army, Chief Signal Officer Army of the Potomac. The above picture and description furnished by courtesy of Brig.-Genl. Chas. L. Davis, U. S. Army, Schenectady, N. Y.



CENTRE HILL—Residence of Mr. Charles Hall Davis
Now shows battle scars from shelling in 1864-65. Reception given President Taft in this home, BY THE CITIZENS OF PETERSBURG, May 19, 1909

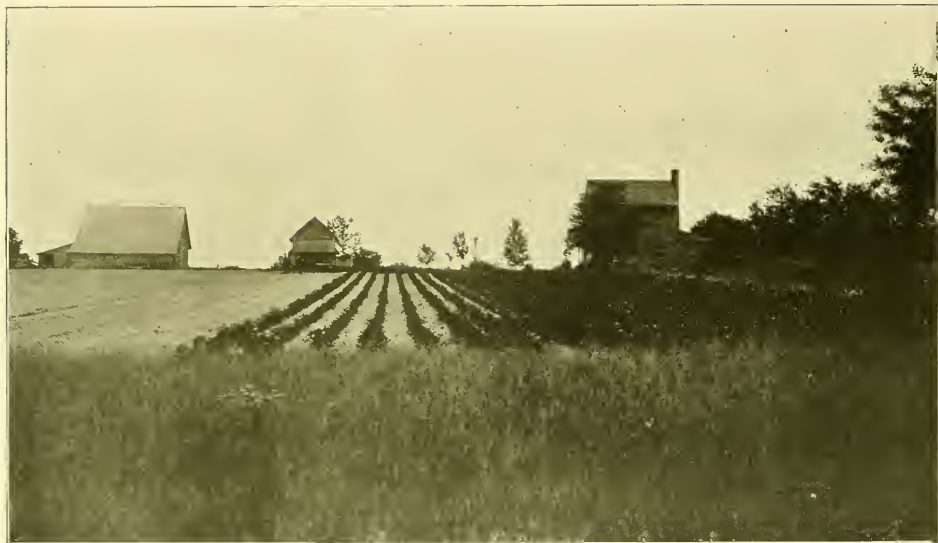


This residence occupies the exact location of the Tower and is built of part of timbers from the Tower. Note the peaceful gunners and battery now in undisturbed possession of Fort Fisher, which is remarkably well preserved after forty-five years.



CONFEDERATE FORT GRIGG

This fort is on the Boydton Plank Road, near Petersburg, and was held by Harris' Mississippi Brigade April 2, 1865, which repulsed thirteen charges before it was taken, and was not taken until all the ammunition was exhausted



THE BOSWELL HOUSE

This house is in front of the Federal and Confederate line, on the Church Road, and is the only one standing that was standing during the Civil War, both armies passed in full view of it, and was exposed to the big gunning from Fort Fisher and Fort Grigg, 1864-65.



House owned by Rev. Richard Ferguson, near Darvills, Dinwiddie Co., Va., in which a band of ex-slaves, commanded by two negro soldiers of the Federal Army, plotted a massacre of the whites in April, 1865. The commander of the Federal troops stationed at Wilson Depot on the Norfolk and Western R. R., was notified, and he sent over a detachment of soldiers, who surrounded the house, shooting all that tried to escape and capturing the rest



NATIONAL CEMETERY

View in Poplar Grove National Cemetery, Dinwiddie Co., Va., where are sleeping 6,212 U. S. and 39 Confederate State Soldiers.
Notice the young Johnny, under the protection of the flag, who is now loyal



"EAST HILL"

This is all that remains of "Bollingbrooke," the British Headquarters during the Revolution. Here Cornwallis, Arnold, Tarleton and Phillips were quartered during the spring of 1781, and here died General Phillips of the British Army, described by Jefferson as "the proudest man of the proudest nation on earth."



LAFAYETTE'S HEADQUARTERS

From this hill on the north bank of the Appomattox River, in the spring of 1781, Lafayette shelled the city of Petersburg, then in the hands of the British. General Phillips of the British Army, who lay dying at Bollingbrooke, complained that his enemies would not even let him die in peace



POCAHONTAS BASIN

At the end of Pocahontas Bridge, on the north bank of the Appomattox River, stands this stone basin, said to have been used by Indian Princess Pocahontas during visits with her father, Chief Powhatan, to this portion of his hunting grounds



CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL, Dr. William F. Drewry, Supt.

Re-established on the present site in 1885. Located one mile west of Petersburg on electric car line. Number officers and employees 140; Number of patients 1,400; Number acres in grounds and farm 500. Buildings, lawns and pleasure grounds cover several acres. Annual appropriation from State \$131,000.00. Value of plant nearly half a million dollars. Old Fort Whitworth on the property, and Fort Gregg, numerous breastworks and other points of historic interest near-by. This shows the loyalty of the Old Dominion to her unfortunate citizens



Baskerville & Jones's Grist Mill, situated on the Nottoway River, in Dinwiddie Co., at Champ, Va., with a capacity of one hundred barrels per day.
This is illustrative of the abundant water power mills so abundant in the South



PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
HONORED GUEST OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, VA.
MAY 19, 1909

We acknowledge indebtedness to the Hon. Carter R. Bishop, at present Cashier of the Appomattox Trust Co., of Petersburg, Va., and an honored member of A. P. Hill Camp of Confederate Veterans, for valuable historic information in this souvenir booklet

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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